

AB 599 Interagency Task Force (ITF)

Cal/EPA Headquarters Building
16th Floor, Room 1610
Sacramento, CA

Meeting Summary

Thursday, May 30, 2002

ATTENDEES

ITF Members:

Al Vargas, CDFA
Gary Yamamoto, DHS
Dan Gallagher, DTSC
Doug Osugi, DWR
Lisa Babcock, SWRCB
John Troiano, DPR
Carl Hauge, DWR

Interested Parties:

Steve Ekstrom, The Results Group
Neil Dubrovsky, USGS
Ken Belitz, USGS (via telephone)
Tim Parker, Groundwater Resources Assoc.
Rob Swartz, DWR
Sarah Raker, SF Bay RWQCB
Lewis Angus, Central Coast RWQCB
Barbara Evoy, SWRCB
James Giannopoulos, SWRCB
John Borkovich, SWRCB

Convene Meeting

- Steve Ekstrom, meeting facilitator from the Results Group, opened the meeting at 9:40 am.

Approval of Minutes

- Minutes from the April 10, 2002, ITF meeting were approved by the ITF.

Re-Cap of May 29, 2002, PAC Meeting Discussion

ITF members reviewed topics discussed at the May 29, 2002, PAC Meeting. The following is a summary of the ITF discussion:

- Extra discussion points as a result of PAC meeting:
 - GeoTracker Tools > Tools vs. Assessment
- Program Expectations (Tim Parker)
 - Groundwater Monitoring is a long-term process
 - North Coast experience may be a helpful to draw upon
- Next Meeting – June 20th

Action Item:

Move Groundwater Basin Ranking/Priority system development priority to the July ITF meeting.

- Lack of Program Overlap (Neil D.)
 - There isn't much program overlap at all between State Agencies Groundwater Monitoring Programs. This matter needs to be made clear to the PAC.

Action Item:

1) Include in Draft Report Executive Summary, Chapters 3 and 4) Include in discussions with PAC if this issue arises again.

- **Chapter 7: Comprehensive Groundwater Monitoring Plan**

- Neil Dubrovsky gave overview of plan

Action Item:

Neil Dubrovsky will make draft of presentation for June 20th ITF meeting. He will compare and contrast Modesto vs. LA with minimal data; then compare with DHS well coverage.

- Table showing existing program data – digital coverage: yes or no
 - DHS – digital water quality data
 - DWR – well driller's report
 - USGS – digital water quality data

Chapter 6: Public Access to Groundwater Data/Information

- Access issues to private/domestic wells following September 11; water districts do not want groundwater well location information to be disclosed
- We need to stress that the proposed comprehensive program will only be viable if it's based upon public trust.

Action Item:

Proposed recommendation of ITF to PAC: To support legislation dealing with well driller's report information to be made readily available to the "public."

- Discuss the definition of "*Public*": Anybody who has access to the Internet. For example:
 - Private Citizens/ Consumers
 - Consultants (environmental)
 - Scientists / Researchers
 - RP's
 - Purveyors
 - Regulators
- Detailed information vs. "*fuzzy*" information: What is the lowest / highest resolution that the ITF says: Is the detail down to the township quarter-quarter; or is it a quarter mile "dot" on a map?
- I.D. the means by which to make monitoring information to public
- Past practices were if researchers needed access – discussion.
- Recognize strength of computer programming to regulate – "Tiers of Access"

Example:

Regulatory Page vs. Public Page

“Public” Tools	Publicly Available Information	Information Unavailable to the Public
General Consumer	Processed Data / Description	-----
Researchers/Consultants	Well Log Data (AB 989)	-----
Regulators	-----	DHS – Latitude / Longitude (GPS) DPR – Latitude / Longitude
Source Agency	-----	Raw Source Data ex: DHS & DPR Site Locations

- SB 989 – Granted environmental consultants access to well driller’s report data
- Freedom of Information Act – Public Records Act
- Confidentiality of well log issues / Law / Security issues
- Examples of Access issues – constraints

Action Item: Chapter 6 – Public Access to Data “Spin-off Group I” Meeting Prior to next ITF meeting on June 20th - PAC Requested Item**

Legal constraints; i.e. well identification – or not?

- John T. – will cover public trust issues.
- Gary Y. – will identify information available on the Internet
- Doug O. – is it OK to post well driller's reports on the Internet?
- Tim Parker – Compare other States’ confidentiality regulations vs. California regulations on confidentiality
- James G. – will facilitate this “Spin-off Group” meeting – date to be determined

Chapter 5:

Data Management - Discussion of GeoTracker Tools (Brett W.) - PAC Requested Item**

Data Types > Sources > Function:

- “Data needs” List:
 - Tools shown on list will be developed in near future.
- Tools: Definition
 - Visualization
 - Graphs (simple tools)
 - Contouring

Action Item: Presentation regarding “tools” (James Giannopoulos)

Let’s create a poster with PowerPoint using:

- Larger bullets
- Demo Site with bullets

Assessments/Findings/Products = PAC requested Item**

- How are we doing
 - On a basin-by-basin basis (are we worse, better, status quo)

Example:

USGS/GAMA

Finding

L.A./Santa Ana Basins Groundwater Study

No new detections above the MCLs

- How much of the groundwater is contaminated
- How much groundwater is in the ground
- How much groundwater is drinkable

- The group should address: Are there statewide items that could be stated – besides basin-by-basin?

Action Item: “Spin-off Group II” - Meeting Prior to next ITF meeting on June 20th - PAC Requested Item**

- Sarah Raker – will facilitate
- Tim Parker
- Rob Swartz
- John Troiano

Will address these issues:

Bring back to ITF meeting on June 20th a set of recommendations regarding desired “products”:

- State of the groundwater product
- State of individual basins

Action Items:

John and Brett

- Provide Chapters 2 through 5 after June 20 ITF meeting via e-mail for ITF review and comment, then distribution to PAC.

Proposed PAC Agenda

The agenda for the July 24 PAC meeting will include:

- Review drafts of Chapters 2, 3, 4 and 5
- Conduct workshops on Chapters 6 and 7
- Continue discussion of “assessments/tools/products” generated by the comprehensive groundwater monitoring program
- Discussion GeoTracker tools